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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Jean-Luc Collet

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10/31/2006

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EXAMINER

BOTTS, MICHAEL K

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2176

DATE MAILED: 10/31/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/615,505	COLLET ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Michael K. Botts	2176	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 August 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 and 12-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 and 12-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on August 10, 2006 has been entered.
2. This is a Non-Final Office Action.
3. Claims 1-10 and 12-17 have been examined, with claims 1, 9, and 10 being the independent claims.
4. Claims 1-10 and 12-17 are rejected.

The Specification

5. Applicant is reminded of the requirement to update the status (pending, allowed, etc.) of all parent priority applications in the first line of the specification, when appropriate, and the status of all citations of U.S. filed applications in the specification should also be updated, when appropriate.

Claims Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1-7, 9, 10, and 12-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Koss (U.S. Patent 5,231,577, issued July 27, 1993) [hereinafter "Koss"].

Regarding independent claim 1 as currently amended, Koss states:

A method for formatting a plurality of source text files each having specific formats to be imported into a single spreadsheet file comprising the steps of:

a) selecting a user modifiable file format profile to be associated to each of the plurality of source text files, the plurality of file format profile including at least one identifier with a corresponding formatting instruction;

(See, Koss, col. 3, line 64 through col. 5, line 6, teaching the "XF table index," which is the user modifiable file format profile to be associated with source text files, and "ifnt" which is the identifier with a corresponding formatting instruction.)

b) creating a source-format link between the plurality of source text files and the selected plurality of file format profiles;

(It is noted that a "source-format link" is defined in the disclosure as the link between the source text file to be imported and a selected file format profile. See, disclosure, col. 3, lines 13-21 The "source-format link" is read as any ordinary and necessary common addressing method for selecting the source document such that it can be loaded into the spreadsheet.

See, Koss, col. 3, line 47 through col. 5, line 62, teaching the "source-format link" as the index within the cell to read the cell format. In the cited embodiment, the "source-format link" is made according to a default format. However, the cells may be altered later to a different format and data may also be imported after that time, meeting the limitation. See, Koss, col. 9, lines 1-5.)

c) importing the plurality of source text files into the spreadsheet file after creating the source-format link;

(See, Koss, col. 3, line 47 through col. 5, line 62, teaching importing the source text files into the spreadsheet according to the default formatting established with the link.)

d) creating a location link between the imported plurality of source text files and their locations into the spreadsheet file after the importing; and

(It is noted that a "location link" is defined in the disclosure as the identifier of the location of the imported text file and its place in the spreadsheet. See, disclosure, page 3, lines 21-25. The "location link" is read as the ordinary and necessary location address of the data to the spreadsheet such that the data may be identified and accessed within the spreadsheet.

See, Koss, col. 8, lines 3-4, teaching that index entries are maintained to link the data in the spreadsheet.)

e) applying the selected plurality of file format profiles to the imported plurality of source text files by using the source-format link and the location link.

Art Unit: 2176

(See, Koss, col. 3, line 47 through col. 9, line 8, teaching the invention, including the application of selected profiles to imported source text files using the source-format link and location link.)

Regarding **dependent claim 2**, Koss states:

The method of claim 1 further comprising before step a) a step of creating at least one file format profile including at least one identifier with a corresponding formatting instruction.

(See, Koss, col. 5, line 35 through col. 6, line 68, teaching the creating of a new file format profile with identifier and corresponding formatting instruction.)

Regarding **dependent claim 3**, Koss states:

The method of claim 2 further comprising a step of storing the created at least one file format profile into a file format profile database.

(See, Koss, col. 5, lines 7-19 and col. 7, lines 16-64, teaching saving the formatted spreadsheet.)

Regarding **dependent claim 4**, Koss states:

The method of claim 1 further comprising after step a) the step of modifying the selected file format profile.

(See, Koss, col. 7, lines 16-64, teaching modifying a selected file format profile.)

Regarding **dependent claim 5**, Koss states:

The method of claim 4 further comprising a step of storing the modified selected file format profile into the file format profile database.

(See, Koss, col. 7, lines 16-64, teaching modifying a selected file format profile and storing it in a database.)

Regarding **dependent claim 6**, Koss states:

The method of claim 1 further comprising after step d) a step of storing the location link into a spreadsheet user profile database.

(See, Koss, col. 5, lines 20-34, teaching loading an existing formatted worksheet, implicitly teaching a user profile database from which the existing worksheet is loaded. See also, Koss, col. 7, line 65 through col. 8, line 38, teaching stored links in stored spreadsheets.)

Regarding **dependent claim 7**, Koss states:

The method of claim 1 wherein the spreadsheet file is created by a spreadsheet program.

(See, Koss, col. 3, lines 33-46, teaching that the invention is directed to well-known spreadsheet applications.)

Art Unit: 2176

Regarding **dependent claim 9, as currently amended**:

(Claim 9 incorporates substantially similar subject matter as claimed in claim 1 and is rejected along the same rationale.)

Regarding **dependent claim 10, as currently amended**:

(Claim 10 incorporates substantially similar subject matter as claimed in claim 1 and is rejected along the same rationale.)

Regarding **dependent claim 12**, Koss states:

The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one identifier generates an action in the spreadsheet file.

(It is noted that an "identifier" is disclosed in the application within the context of identifying a source file format with formatting instructions for formatting on importation of the a file. See, disclosure, page 3, lines 12-25. See,)

Regarding **dependent claim 13**, Koss states:

The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one identifier further comprises a plurality of identifiers, wherein each identifier generates a unique action in the spreadsheet file.

(It is noted that an "identifier" is disclosed in the application within the context of identifying a source file format with formatting instructions for formatting on importation of the a file. See, disclosure, page 3, lines 12-25. See,)

Regarding **dependent claim 14**, Koss states:

The method of claim 1, wherein the location link further comprises a directory path to the source text files; and
the location link contains a related location and a size of each of the imported plurality of source text files.

(It is noted that a directory path between the spreadsheet and the source file is necessary and inherent as the means by which the source file is associated with the spreadsheet. See, Koss, col. 7, line 65 through col. 8, line 64, teaching maintaining a size increment to the source files for either re-opening saved files or opening new files.)

Regarding **dependent claim 15**, Koss states:

The method of claim 1, wherein the source-format link stores a format action applied to the spreadsheet file after the importing.

(See,)

Regarding **dependent claim 16**, Koss states:

The method of claim 1, wherein the applying further comprises executing a set of formatting instructions based on the at least one identifier contained in the file format profile.

(See, Koss, col. 3, line 47 through 50, teaching the formatting identifiers.)

Art Unit: 2176

2. It is noted that citations to specific, pages, columns, lines, or figures in the prior art references should not be considered to be limiting in any way. A reference is relevant for all it contains and may be relied upon for all that it would have reasonably suggested to one having ordinary skill in the art. See, MPEP 2123.

3. **Claims 8 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koss (U.S. Patent 5,231,577, issued July 27, 1993) [hereinafter "Koss"].**

Regarding **dependent claim 8**, Koss states:

The method of claim 1 further comprising after step e) a step of deleting the location link.

(It is noted that this limitation is read as un-doing the formatting such that the formatted cell returns to the default state. See, Koss, claim 8, teaching that a link may be eliminated when it is a duplicate. The term "eliminated" could reasonably be read as either moved to storage for use in un-doing the deletion, or it could be reasonably read as meaning that the link was erased. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to delete an unused location link for the obvious and beneficial purpose of removing the link without the additional processing overhead of storing the link for possible later undoing.)

Art Unit: 2176

Regarding **dependent claim 17**, Koss states:

The method of claim 8, further comprising updating a spreadsheet user profile to correspond with the deletion.

(It is noted that this limitation is read as specifying saving a removed link, such as for possible use in restoring a deletion. See, Koss, claim 8, teaching that a link may be eliminated when it is a duplicate. The term "eliminated" could reasonably be read as either moved to storage for use in un-doing the deletion, or it could be reasonably read as meaning that the link was erased. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to store the removed link for the obvious and beneficial purpose of being able to undo the removal of the link.)

Response to Arguments

Applicants' arguments filed July 20, 2006 have been fully considered, but they are not persuasive.

Regarding rejections of claims 1-10 and 12-17:

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-10 and 12-17 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael K. Botts whose telephone number is 571-272-


Art Unit: 2176

5533. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:00-4:00 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon can be reached on 571-272-4136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MKB/mkb


WILLIAM BASHORE
PRIMARY EXAMINER